

STUDIES IN THE FLORA OF ARABIA VIII:
A new *Pulicaria* from Oman

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ABSTRACT. A new species of *Pulicaria* J. Gaertner (Compositae) from Oman is described as *P. edmondsonii* Gamal-Eldin. It belongs to sect. *Platychaete* and is allied to *P. nobilis* Gamal-Eldin and *P. omanensis* Gamal-Eldin. All three species are endemic to Oman. The 24 species of *Pulicaria* now known from the Arabian peninsula are listed and the local countries where they occur are indicated; 13 are endemic.

Since the publication of the revision of *Pulicaria* (Gamal-Eldin, 1981) I have received on loan from Edinburgh (E) several specimens of *Pulicaria* collected recently in Saudi Arabia and Oman. Unexpectedly two Omani specimens turned out to belong to a distinct new species.

The new species which is named after the collector Dr John R. Edmondson, formerly at the Royal Botanic Garden at Edinburgh and now at the Merseyside County Museum in Liverpool, belongs to sect. *Platychaete*. It shows once more the close relationship between sects *Pulicaria* and *Platychaete* which was discussed in detail in the revision of the genus. The new species has the habit and involucre characters of the other species of sect. *Platychaete*, but the subplumose pappus is not typical of this group. The same condition occurs in several other species, e.g. *P. omanensis* Gamal-Eldin, *P. aylmeri* Baker (Gamal-Eldin, 1981, Fig. 132, 136), *P. angustifolia* DC. and *P. stocksii* Boiss. (Rechinger, 1980). This emphasises the correctness of the decision to treat *Platychaete* as a section and not a separate genus.

***Pulicaria edmondsonii* Gamal-Eldin, sp. nov.** [sect. *Platychaete* (Boiss.) Hook f.] Figs 1, 2.

Affinis *P. nobilis* sed differt inter alia involucre infundibuliformi, phyllis stramineis, capitulis homogamis.

Planta suffruticosa (ramis capituliferis solum herbaceis), ad minimum 25 cm alta (sed verosimiliter altior), valde ramosa; partes inferiores lignosae, aphyllae, albae. Rami capituliferi (hornotini?) 5-9 cm longi, erecti, 1-3 capitulis sustinentes, densissime cano-tomentosi, dense foliati. Folia laxa tomentosa, praecipue in pagina superiore glabrescentia; inferiora spatulata vel lanceolata, media oblanceolata vel lanceolata, c. 4-6 mm lata et 3-4 cm longa, integra, basi sensim angustata, non auriculata. Pedunculi capitulorum lateralium breves, 1-2 cm longi, aphylli vel folio unico parvo provisi. Involucrum c. 8 mm altum et 4-4.5 mm latum, infundibuliforme. Phylla involucri inaequalia, 4-5-seriata, coriacea, straminea; exteriora oblonga, 2-3 x c. 1 mm, sparse tomentosa, interiora 3-6.5 x 0.6-0.8 mm, lineari-lanceolata. Flores lutei, omnes hermaphroditi, tubulosi, 4.5-5 mm longi, glabri. Achaenia immatura c. 1.3 mm longa.

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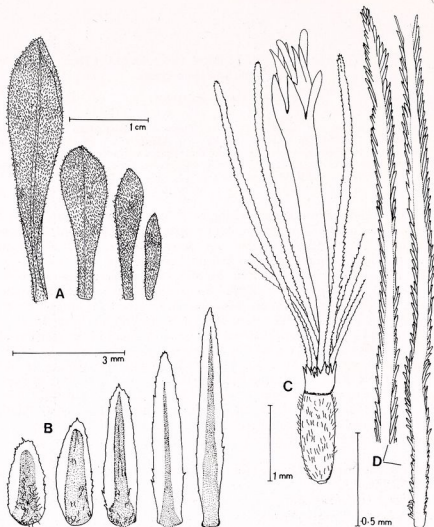


FIG. 1. *Pulicaria edmondsonii*. A, median and upper leaves; B, involucral bracts (outer to innermost from left to right); C, flower with achene and pappus; D, a single hair of the inner pappus.

Pappus duplex; externus vix 0.5 mm longus, internus e setis 17–19 floribus aequilongis, basi laevibus, superne margine subplumosis (dentibus sensim elongatis).

SULTANATE OF OMAN: W Hajar mts, wadi running into Wadi Fida, N of Jabal Wabah, limestone slopes and flats, 430 m, 12 iii 1980, *J. R. Edmondson* 3362 (holo. E); Dhahirah, Wadi Fida below Yanqul, dry limestone slopes, 450 m, 12 iii 1980, *J. R. Edmondson* 3357 (E).
Endemic to Oman.

P. edmondsonii is easily distinguished from all other species in sect. *Platychaete* and closely resembles *P. nobilis* Gamal-Eldin. The latter is

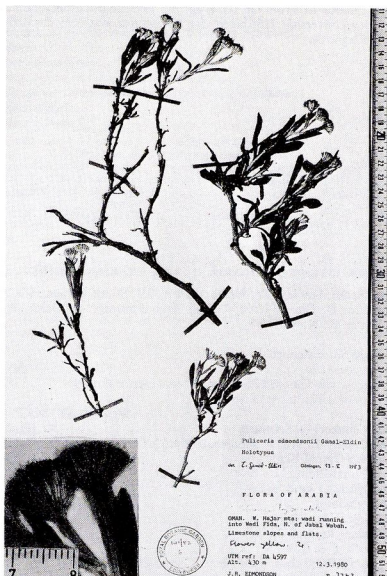


FIG. 2. *Pulicaria edmondsonii*. Holotype: Edmondson 3362 (E).

known only from the type collection from Oman (Dhofar), Jebel Qara. The differences between these two species are shown in Table 1. There is another closely related—although quite distinct—species, *P. omanensis* Gamal-Eldin, also endemic to Oman. It is easily distinguished from the new species by the densely pilose (not tomentose) indumentum, the campanulate involucre and especially the linear involucral bracts with subulate, violet (later brownish) tips.

I am grateful to Prof. Dr G. Wagenitz (Systematisch-Geobotanisches Institut der Universität Göttingen) for his interest and help in correcting the latin diagnosis.

TABLE 1

	<i>P. nobilis</i>	<i>P. edmondsonii</i>
Median leaves	2-3 mm wide	4-6 mm wide
Capitula	heterogamous	homogamous
Involucre	4-5 mm long, 8-9 mm diam., subhemispherical	8 mm long, 4-4.5 mm diam., funnel-shaped
Involucral bracts	not straw-yellow; all densely tomentose; median 3.5 x 0.25 mm	pale straw-yellow; only outer thinly tomentose; 3-5 (innermost 6.5) x c. 0.8 mm
Pappus, outer	0.2 mm	0.5 mm
inner	3-4 mm, 10-12 setae	4-5 mm, 17-19 setae

CHECK-LIST OF PULICARIA IN THE ARABIAN PENINSULA

SA, Saudi Arabia; NY, North Yemen; SY, South Yemen; SOC, Socotra; O, Oman; UAE, United Arab Emirates; Q, Qatar; B, Bahrein; K, Kuwait.

P. argyrophylla Franchet

var. *argyrophylla* NY, SY

var. *oligophylla* Gamal-Eldin (syn. *P. leucophylla* Baker) SY, O

crispa (Forssk.) Benth. ex Oliver

subsp. *crispa* SA, NY, SY, SOC?, O, K

cylindrica (Baker) O. Schwartz SY [Endemic]

diversifolia Balf. f. (syn. *P. shoabensis* Vierh.) SOC [Endemic]

edmondsonii Gamal-Eldin O [Endemic]

elegans Gamal-Eldin SOC [Endemic]

glutinosa (Boiss.) Jaub. & Sp.

subsp. *glutinosa* SA, SY, O, UAE

gnaphalodes (Vent.) Boiss UAE?, Q, B

grandidentata Jaub. & Sp. NY [Endemic]

guestii Rech. f. & Rawi SA

incisa (Lam.) DC. subsp. *candolleana* Gamal-Eldin (syn.

P. undulata auct., non *Inula undulata* L.) SA

inuloides (Poir.) DC. (syn. *P. arabica* (L.) Cass. subsp.

inuloides (Poir.) Maire; *P. longifolia* Boiss.) SA, NY, SY, O

jaubertii Gamal-Eldin (syn. *P. orientalis* Jaub. & Sp. p.p.,

nom illeg.) SA, NY, SY, SOC (rare), O, Q

lanata Gamal-Eldin SOC [Endemic]

lancifolia O. Schwartz SY [Endemic]

nivea O. Schwartz SY [Endemic]

nobilis Gamal-Eldin O [Endemic]

omanensis Gamal-Eldin O [Endemic]

petiolaris Jaub. & Sp. SA, NY, SY

rauhii Gamal-Eldin NY [Endemic]

- schimperi* DC. (syn. *P. rüppellii* Schultz-Bip. ex Richard; *P. ehrenbergiana* Schultz-Bip. ex Schweinf.) . . . SA, NY
- somalensis* O. Hoffm.
 subsp. *somalensis* . . . SA, NY, SY
 subsp. *schweinfurthii* Gamal-Eldin (syn.
P. adenensis auct. non Schweinf. ex O. Kuntze) . . . SY
- stephanocarpa* Balf. f.SOC [Endemic]
- vieraoides* Balf. f.SOC [Endemic]

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